

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 AID-05
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07 IO-13 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05
DOEE-00 /132 W

-----113147 161505Z /45

O R 161423Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6155
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

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E. O. 11652:NA
TAGS: MPOL TU GR CY
SUBJECT: ECEVIT VISIT TO LONDON,

HIGHLIGHTS. DURING VISIT TO LONDON MAY 15, TURKISH
PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN,
SPOKE TO INVITED AUDIENCE AT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
STRATEGIC STUDIES (IISS), AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE.
LIMITED PRESS COMMENT MAY 16 CENTERS ON HIS STATEMENTS
TURKEY DOES NOT INTEND TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO, BUT THAT
EUROPEANS SHOULD DO MORE TO FILL GAP CAUSED BY US ARMS
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EMBARGO, PARTICULARLY BY CO-PRODUCTION SCHEMES THAT WILL
CONTRIBUTE TO TURKISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALSO
PROMINENT IS ECEVIT'S ASSERTION (TO PRESS) THAT TURKEY
WILL NOT CHANGE ITS CYPRUS POSITION UNTIL U.S. CONGRESS
LIFTS EMBARGO. OFFICIAL LEVELS OF FCO HAVE NOT YET OB-
TAINED READOUT OF ECEVIT'S TALKS WITH CALLAGHAN. END
HIGHLIGHTS.

2. ECEVIT'S STATEMENT TO IISS WAS MADE FROM NOTES AND "ON THE RECORD" BUT NO TEXT MADE AVAILABLE. QUESTION PERIOD WAS OFF THE RECORD. FOLLOWING SUMMARY BASED ON EMBOFF NOTES.

3. FUTURE TURKISH POLICY. ECEVIT SAID TURKEY IS NOW MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME IN ADJUSTING ITS POLICIES TO CHANGES IN WORLD SITUATION, NAMELY TRANSITION FROM COLD WAR TO DETENTE AND CHANGE IN SOURCE OF "IMMINENT THREATS" TO TURKEY'S SECURITY. (IN QUESTION PERIOD AND PRESS CONFERENCE, ECEVIT MADE CLEAR HE HAS GREECE IN MIND.)

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY. GOT WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVISE DEFENSE CONCEPTS ACCORDINGLY. MAINTENANCE OF TURKEY'S CURRENT MILITARY STRUCTURE IS TOO HEAVY A BURDEN ON THE ECONOMY; THE FUTURE DEFENSE STRUCTURE SHOULD "SPUR" DEVELOPMENT.

5. TURKEY DESIRES GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS. WHILE ARMAMENTS REMAIN NECESSARY, MUTUAL CONFIDENCE IS OFTEN A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO PEACE. TURKEY IS CONSCIOUS OF HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL REALITIES, "WHICH ARE MORE PERMANENT THAN POLITICAL ALLIANCES," AND WILL GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO HER REGIONAL ROLE AS A BALKAN, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND MIDDLE EAST POWER.

6. NATO. DURING IISS TALK, ECEVIT SAID TURKEY'S EVOLVING DEFENSE STRUCTURE WILL REMAIN COMPATIBLE WITH NATO AND COMMENSURATE WITH NATO'S OWN SUPPORT OF TURKEY, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURKISH DEFENSE EFFORTS WOULD NOT BE "PROVOCATIVE" FOR THE COUNTRIES IN ITS REGION. IN QUESTION PERIOD, ECEVIT ASSERTED NATO'S IMPORTANCE LIES LESS IN ITS ROLE AS A DEFENSE SYSTEM THAN AS AN ELEMENT OF THE BALANCE THAT HAS LED TO DETENTE. TURKEY WOULD NOT UPSET THIS BALANCE BY WITHDRAWING FROM NATO, NOR WOULD IT "TRY TO BLACKMAIL" BY THREATENING WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO'S MILITARY STRUCTURE. ECEVIT STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF NATO SHOULD DO MORE TO ASSIST TURKEY, PARTICULARLY BY CO-PRODUCTION PROJECTS IN NATO FRAMEWORK, WHICH WOULD UTILIZE TURKISH INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES, CONTRIBUTE TO ITS ECONOMY, AND FILL GAP CREATED BY U.S. EMBARGO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, ECEVIT SAID GOT IS NOW STUDYING QUESTION OF TURKEY'S MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO NATO IN LIGHT OF ANTICIPATED SUPPORT FROM NATO COUNTRIES AND IMPACT ON TURKISH ECONOMY, BUT THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN MADE ON FUTURE SIZE OR STRUCTURE OF TURKISH FORCES.

7. UNITED STATES. ECEVIT REFERRED TO EMBARGO AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE "UNRELIABILITY AND INCREDIBILITY" OF U.S. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES. TURKEY'S SECURITY HAD BEEN "DISADVANTAGED" BY OVERDEPENDENCE ON THE US, WHOSE ACTIONS AS A WORLD POWER WERE TOO SUBJECT TO PECULIARI-

TIES OF AMERICAN INTERNAL POLITICS AND ETHNIC LOBBIES.
THE U.S. EMBARGO WAS NOT THE SOLE CAUSE OF TURKEY'S
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BUT HAD "CONTRIBUTED A LOT TO THE
CRISIS." HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT US ADMINISTRATION'S
ABILITY TO LIFT THE EMBARGO.

8. SOVIET UNION. TURKEY, HE SAID, DESIRES GOOD RELATIONS
WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS. IN QUESTION PERIOD, HE ADDED
THAT TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS WERE "INCREASINGLY

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GOOD" AND USSR IS WILLING TO EXTEND ANY ECONOMIC AID
TURKEY IS WILLING TO ACCEPT. SOVIETS, HE CONCLUDED, ARE
AWARE TURKEY IS A MEMBER OF A MILITARY ALLIANCE SO
QUESTION OF ARMS AID DOES NOT ARISE.
9. GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND CYPRUS. IN GENERAL REVIEW

OF TURKISH EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE ON AEGEAN ISSUES, ECEVIT SAID TURKEY HAS NO DESIGNS ON GREEK ISLANDS AND THAT HISTORICALLY, GREEKS AND TURKS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES WHEN LEFT ALONE BY OUTSIDE POWERS. ON CYPRUS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECEVIT OUTLINED NATURE OF TURK CYPRIOT PROPOSALS, STRESSING FORMULATION ON TERRITORY DONE PURPOSELY TO BE FLEXIBLE AND TURKS WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS THEM WITH AN OPEN MIND. CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WERE DESIGNED TO CREATE A REAL FEDERATION AND TO EVOLVE TOWARD A MORE CLOSELY-KNIT POLITICAL STRUCTURE OVER TIME. REJECTION BY GREEK CYPRIOTS IS PART OF LATTER'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN US PRESSURE ON TURKEY, BUT HAD ALSO AFFECTED GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. IN QUESTION PERIOD, ECEVIT ADDED THAT IN LIGHT OF SYG'S RELUCTANCE TO RECONVENE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, IT WAS PERHAPS BETTER IF SYG "DID NOT OVERCONCERN HIMSELF" WITH CYPRUS PROBLEM.

10. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. ECEVIT EXPRESSED WORRY THAT GREECE, ONCE A MEMBER OF EC, WOULD USE ITS VETO TO DRAG OTHER EC MEMBERS INTO EMBARGOES SIMILAR TO THAT IMPOSED BY U.S. ECEVIT REFERRED TO EC QUOTAS WHICH HAVE HARMED TURKISH EXPORTS AND TO EC FREEZE ON MOVEMENT OF TURKISH WORKERS. HE CALLED ON EC TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN TURKEY TO HELP PROVIDE JOBS FOR THESE WORKERS.

11. NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ASKED IF ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE USEFUL TO COUNTER THREATS TO TURKEY, ECEVIT SIMPLY SAID "NO."

12. MONTREUX CONVENTION. ASKED ABOUT PASSAGE OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS UNDER CONVENTION, ECEVIT SAID TURKS WANT TO KEEP CONVENTION VIABLE BY LOOKING TO ITS SPIRIT AND ALLOWING FOR TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE. CONVENTION REMAINS VALID AND GOT DOES NOT WISH TO REVISE IT.

L3. CENTO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, ECEVIT SAID AIMS OF CENTO (AND RCD) SHOULD BE REDEFINED IN LIGHT OF CHANGING TIMES AND REQUIREMENTS. CENTO IS "STAGNATING AND SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT."

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MPOL, TU, GR, CY, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
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